

Madame Speaker,

I rise today in support of H.Res. 1420. On that tragic day, I was the Mayor of West New York, New Jersey and a member of the State Assembly. My district sits directly across from lower Manhattan and ever since the smoke cleared on 9/11, there has been a visible reminder to me and my constituents of the loss we suffered on that day. Everyday I am at home in West New York, I see the absence in the skyline. It is a constant reminder to me of the great loss our nation suffered on September 11. Hundreds of husbands, wives, parents, friends and neighbors did not return home that night. Many others did return home but still have to bear the burden of their losses everyday. Mr./Madame Speaker, today I want to honor the memories of those we lost seven years ago today and those who lost loved ones. I'd also like to honor our troops that, since September 11, 2001, have been fighting so bravely abroad to protect this great country. We appreciate their sacrifice. Thank you, and I yield back the balance of my time.